

## CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 1-16 including the duplicate Claims 9 and 10.

Claim 17 (New) A method for adapting the execution of a route, a sequence of steps where each step has an associated user to execute the step, wherein the route begins execution in a workflow system and a step in the route provides means for the associated user to specify subsequent steps in the route,

such that the route execution is adapted by the associated user.

Claim 18 (New) The method of Claim 17, wherein the means to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify the user associated with a subsequent route step.

Claim 19 (New) The method of Claim 17, wherein the means to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify the user associated with a subsequent route step where the user is selected from a directory of users.

Claim 20 (New) The method of Claim 17, wherein the means to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify a sub-route, a sequence of steps, as the subsequent steps in the route.

Claim 21 (New) The method of Claim 17, wherein the means to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify a sub-route by selection from a library of sub-routes as the subsequent steps in the route.

Claim 22 (New) The method of Claim 17, wherein the means to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify a sub-route containing a step in the sub-route that provides means for a user to specify subsequent steps in the route.

Claim 23 (New) The method of Claim 17, wherein the means to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify a sub-route that includes parallel sub-routes as the subsequent steps in the route.

Claim 24 (New) The method of Claim 17, wherein the means to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to modify a sub-route and specify the modified sub-route as the subsequent steps in the route.

Claim 25 (New) A workflow system with a route, a sequence of steps where each step has an associated user to execute the step, where the workflow system provides an adaptive step wherein the associated user can specify subsequent steps in a route such that a route including the adaptive step can begin execution and the user associated with the adaptive step specifies subsequent steps in the route and the route execution is adapted by the user.

Claim 26 (New) The workflow system of Claim 25, wherein the adaptive step to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify the user associated with a subsequent route step.

Claim 27 (New) The workflow system of Claim 25, wherein the adaptive step to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify a sub-route, a sequence of steps as the subsequent steps in the route.

Claim 28 (New) The workflow system of Claim 25, wherein the adaptive step to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify a sub-route containing a step in the sub-route that provides means for a user to specify subsequent steps in the route.

Claim 29 (New) The workflow system of Claim 25, wherein the adaptive step to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify a sub-route that includes parallel sub-routes as the subsequent steps in the route.

Claim 30 (New) The workflow system of Claim 25, wherein the adaptive step to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to modify a sub-route and specify the modified sub-route as the subsequent steps in the route.

Claim 31 (New) A method for adaptive definition of a workflow route, a sequence of steps where each step has an associated user to execute the step, comprising:

defining the workflow route except where the subsequent steps are to be specified;

including in the workflow route a step providing means for a user to specify subsequent steps with an associated user who can determine the subsequent steps for the route; and

starting execution of the route in a workflow system.

Claim 32 (New) The method of Claim 31 wherein the means to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify the user associated with a subsequent route step.

Claim 33 (New) The method of Claim 31 wherein the means to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify a sub-route, a sequence of steps, or as the subsequent steps in the route.

Claim 34 (New) The method of Claim 31 wherein the means to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify a sub-route containing a step in the sub-route that provides means for a user to specify subsequent steps in the route.

Claim 35 (New) The method of Claim 31 wherein the means to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to specify a sub-route that includes parallel sub-routes as the subsequent steps in the route.

Claim 36 (New) The method of Claim 31 wherein the means to specify subsequent steps in the route provides means to modify a sub-route and specify the modified sub-route as the subsequent steps in the route.